



Patent Technology Centers

Facsimile Transmission

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Fax Notes:

Please review and reply to the proposed Examiner's Amendment as soon as possible.

Date and time of transmission: Tuesday, September 27, 2005 8:22:40 PM

Number of pages including this cover sheet: 06

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Examiner's Amendment

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with *** on ***.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the title

The title has been changed to PNEUMATIC TIRE WITH SPECIFIED BEAD PORTION PROFILE.

In the specification

p. 1, before the first line of the specification has been inserted the heading -- Background of the invention -- ;

p. 2, between lines 13 and 14 has been inserted the heading -- Brief summary of the invention -- ;

p. 3, between lines 9 and 10 has been inserted the heading -- Brief description of the drawings -- ;

p. 4, between lines 1 and 2 has been inserted the heading -- Detailed description of the invention -- .

In the claims

claim 1 has been rewritten to eliminate vague language and to distinguish over the prior art as --

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1. (currently amended) A pneumatic tire comprising

a tread portion,

a pair of sidewall portions and

a pair of bead portions, each bead portion having a bottom face and an axially outer side face which contact with a bead seat and a flange of a standard wheel rim, respectively, when the tire is mounted on the wheel rim,

in a meridian section of the tire, when the tire is mounted on the wheel rim, said axially outer side face comprising a radially inner part [for] substantially parallel with an equatorial plane of the tire and contacting with a radially inner flat portion of the rim flange, and a radially outer part [for] contacting with a radially outer curved portion of the rim flange, wherein

said axially outer side face is provided with a profile such that the radially inner part is a substantially straight line, and the radially outer part is (A) a substantially straight line or (B) a convex line or (C) a curved concave line having a radius of curvature of not less than 300 mm, and

the radially outer part extends radially outwards from the radially outer end of the radially inner part while inclining axially outwards.

-- (specification p. 4 lines 2-16 and p. 6 lines 13-24);

claim 3 has been rewritten to provide proper antecedent basis as --

3. (currently amended) The pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein

the tire comprises a carcass extending between the bead portions, and

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the height (hb) of the radially outer end of the radially outer part is in a range of 0.35 to 0.45 times the height H of the maximum section width position of [a] the carcass under the normally inflated unloaded condition of the tire.

-- (specification p. 4 lines 16-20 and p. 6 lines 5-7);

claim 5 has been rewritten to provide proper antecedent basis as --

5. (currently amended) The pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein

the tire comprises a carcass extending between the bead portions, and

the height (ha) of the radially inner end of the radially outer part is in a range of from 0.15 to 0.25 times the height H of the maximum section width position of [a] the carcass under the normally inflated unloaded condition of the tire.

-- (specification p. 4 lines 16-20 and p. 6 lines 5-7).

In the abstract

lines 8-9, to bring the abstract under the 150-word limit, "the axially outer side face is provided with a profile such that" has been deleted.

2. The following changes to the drawings have been approved by the examiner and agreed upon by applicant: Figure 8 will be designated by the legend -- Conventional Art -- in order to clarify what is applicant's invention. In order to avoid abandonment of the application, applicant must make these above agreed upon drawing changes.

Reasons for Allowance

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Erickson (532,950), Quimby (575,783), and Waber (2,933,118) disclose examples of the prior art tire similar to the claimed tire but wherein the radially inner part is not substantially parallel with the tire equatorial plane when the tire is mounted on the rim. Yoshida et al. (5,332,019) and the prior art cited by

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applicant disclose examples of the prior art tire similar to the claimed tire but wherein the radially outer curved concave line extending radially outwards from the radially outer end of the radially inner part is not disclosed to have a radius of curvature of not less than 300 mm.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Priority

4. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Adrienne C. Johnstone whose telephone number is (571) 272-1218. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 10:30AM-7:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Dunn can be reached on (571) 272-1171. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Adrienne C. Johnstone
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1733

Adrienne Johnstone

September 27, 2005